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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

FAC Merseburg Airfield

25X1

EVALUATION [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 10 August 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED 10 September 1953

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REFERENCES [REDACTED]

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. Air activity observed at Merseburg airfield between 3 and 10 August 1953 included:
3 August. Diving was practiced from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visibility was good. The aircraft involved took off in elements of twos, fours and eights and executed individual dives. Flying was also observed from 7:10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

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4 August. MIG-15s, [REDACTED] practiced flying in elements of twos from 10:10 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. The weather was fair. Searchlights were in operation in conjunction with night flying which was conducted from 7:20 p.m. to 3 a.m.

5 August. There was no flying.

6 August. There was formation flying by groups of fours and eights. Diving was also practiced. The ceiling was at 1,200 meters, visibility good. [REDACTED]

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7 August. There was no flying.

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8 August. Formation flying in elements of twos and fours was practiced from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9 August. No flying was observed.

10 August. Fifty-minute flights were made by formations of four aircraft from 7:20 a.m. throughout the day. [REDACTED] MIG-15s involved in these practices.

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2. When diving was practiced, the aircraft involved were lined up in elements of two, with the different groups of two being 100 meters behind one another. After taking off a single file formation was formed and after flying a large curve the aircraft dived from an altitude of 1,000 to 1,200 meters over the northern edge of the landing field. The aircraft pulled out of the dive at about 200 meters. The dives were made from an angle of about 30 to 50 degrees.

3. On 8 August, source counted 33 MIG-15s at the field. Five of them were parked in aircraft revetments. The two alert flights were parked in a row at the point of the former AA gun emplacement. No AA guns were seen at the field. However, the unit of 150 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets were still quartered at the airfield barracks installation.²

4. About 100 meters west of the kniferest radar set, a set of the same type was being set up. [REDACTED]

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1. Comment. The report indicates that the occupation of the field has not changed. It is therefore believed that Merseburg airfield is still occupied by a

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25X1A fighter regiment and the superior division headquarters. It was previously stated that there had been flying at the field on every day from 2 through 9 August except for 7 August. [REDACTED] However, this report clarifies the previous report and now states that there was no flying on 5, 7 or 9 August.

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The AAA unit stationed at the field had probably moved to the Jueterbog AAA range, which is used for firing practices with life ammunition by light AAA batteries. [REDACTED]

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25X1A 3. [REDACTED] Comment. The radar set of type knifereast is located at the northern edge of the airfield in line with the half-mid point of runway.

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